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U.S. OFFERS ISRAEL PLAN ON WAR DATA

Officials Say Weinberger Seeks to Share Lebanon Findings

By RICHARD HALLORAN

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WASHINGTON, March 12 — Secretary of Defense Caspar W. Weinberger has proposed a new arrangement with Israel to share intelligence findings from the war in Lebanon, according to Reagan Administration officials. Last month, Mr. Weinberger rejected a proposal by Israel to share the information.

The new proposal has put the Israeli Government in a difficult situation, according to diplomatic officials. On the one hand, they said, Israeli officials think the proposal favors the United States without meeting Israeli needs. On the other hand, they said, Israeli officials want an agreement to help reverse what they see as a downward trend in United States-Israeli relations.

At the same time, members of Congress have been insisting that Mr. Weinberger reach an agreement with Israel under which the United States can learn how American weapons used by the Israelis did in Lebanon against Soviet weapons used by the Syrians.

Mr. Weinberger's proposal, Administration officials said, is brief and contains only the following points:

• All existing intelligence-sharing agreements, which Administration officials said number two dozen, will remain in effect.

• Israel will turn over to the United States all information it gained from air and land operations during the war in Lebanon.

• If disagreements or problems over the sharing of information arise, they

will be sorted out through discussions.

The agreement proposed by Mr. Weinberger is in contrast with the plan offered by Israel and rejected by the Secretary of Defense last month. Administration officials said the Israeli proposal was long and detailed, with Israel insisting on intelligence safeguards and reciprocal sharing of analyses developed from the exchange.

Mr. Weinberger wants to avoid long-range commitments to Israel, officials said then and have repeated since. Mr. Weinberger is seen here as the leader of those within the Administration who seek better military relations with Saudi Arabia, Jordan and other Arab nations that are Israel's adversaries.

Diplomats said Israel was dissatisfied with Mr. Weinberger's new proposal because it failed to specify ways to prevent the information from being shared with United States allies in Europe, where Israel fears Soviet agents will acquire it and pass it on to the Arabs.

Moreover, the Israeli Government is said to be dissatisfied with the lack of a provision for extensive joint analyses, such as those done after the 1973 Middle East War. That venture produced eight volumes of 200 to 300 pages each that influenced subsequent developments in United States weapons, tactics and military budgets.

An 'Insulting' Proposal

The Middle Eastern Policy Review, a newsletter published here, reported over the weekend that Israel would reject Mr. Weinberger's proposal, quoting Israeli sources as calling it "insulting." Administration officials said they had received no reply from the Israeli Government. An inquiry to the Israeli Embassy went unanswered.

The intelligence-sharing agreement has been contentious from the day it was offered, according to Administration officials. Mr. Weinberger was reported to have rejected the initial Israeli proposal out of hand, asserting that Britain had shared information from the Falkland conflict in the South Atlantic without a long, written agreement.

On Feb. 15, however, the Israeli Ambassador here, Moshe Arens, called on Mr. Weinberger at the Pentagon to urge the Defense Secretary to reconsider. Mr. Weinberger later delivered a brief letter with the three-paragraph proposal to Mr. Arens, who returned to Israel at the end of the month to become Defense Minister.

Mr. Weinberger's decision on the Israeli offer has been questioned during

recent testimony before Congressional committees. He has asserted that a new agreement is unnecessary and that a flow of information is being obtained under existing arrangements.

Congressional Pressure for Accord

That has evidently failed to persuade large numbers of legislators. A bipartisan group of 57 representatives that included Jack F. Kemp, Republican of Erie County, and Bill Green, Republican of Manhattan, and Joseph P. Addabbo, Democrat of Queens, and Richard L. Ottinger, Democrat of Westchester, sent a letter to Mr. Weinberger last week urging him to reach an agreement with Israel.

"Israel used over 100 U.S.-developed weapons systems in Lebanon that had never been utilized in full-scale combat," they said. "These include F-15 and F-16 fighters, E-2C Hawkeye early warning aircraft, Sparrow AIM-7F air-to-air missiles, and the TOW antitank missile. The Syrians also used many weapons systems which we know little about, manufactured and developed by the Soviet Union."

"Detailed analyses of the performance of U.S. and Soviet weapons systems are vital in assessing future capabilities, tactics, countermeasures and technologies. Utilization of this data may provide cost-savings to the defense budget as well," they said.